agencies including customs. The details of shahtoosh shawls seized during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Seizures
1998	65 pieces
1999	152 pieces
2000-till date	63 pieces

Investigation into Zoo tragedy at Bhubaneshwar

1440. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Chief Minister has urged the Union Government to set up a team of experts to investigate the mysterious deaths of 12 Royal Bengal tigers in the Nandankanan Zoological Park at Bhubaneshwar;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations have been conducted into the circumstances in which large number of tigers died; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cause of death of tigers in Nandankanan is the disease called Trypanosomiasis which is caused by a protozoa called Trypanosoma The reasons which might have led to flare up of the disease ranged from over-crowding of animals in the enclosures ingress of livestock into the zoo because the breaches in the boundary wall, non-repair of fencing of White Tiger Safari that was damaged by the cyclone, unhygienic method of breeding, poor drainage **and** increased vector and loads due to bushes and shrubs in the vicinity of the enclosures and stress among the tigers.